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(57) Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To obtain IL-6 useful as an ingredient for antitumor agents by culturing an epithelioma cell capable of producing the IL-6 in a serum-free culture medium containing IL- $\alpha$ , IFN, TNF, lipopolysaccharide, etc., and then collecting the product.

**SOLUTION:** This IL-6 which is a B-cell-stimulating factor acting on B-cells to induce the production of an antibody and which is useful as an ingredient for antitumor agents

comprises culturing an epithelioma cell [for example, KB cell strain (ATCC CCL 17) capable of permanently producing the IL-6] in a serum-free culture medium containing a substance selected from IL-1 $\alpha$ , IFN, TNF, and lipopolysaccharides and then collecting the IL-6 from the culture solution. The IL-6 is singly used or combined with one or more antitumor active substances such as a platinum compound, e.g. cisplatin, cytokine, e.g. TNF- $\alpha$  or IFN, antibiotics e.g. actinomycin D or mitomycin C, to obtain a highly active antitumor agent.

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